Beginning the week of November 23, 2006

<u>**ALL**</u> **USERS accessing Pay.gov must use a browser that supports 128 bit encryption.   See below for list of supported versions of browsers.**
And,
<u>**All**</u> **SYSTEMS accessing Pay.gov via a system-to-system interface (OCI) must support 128 bit encryption.**

This change may impact staff at your agency and your customers.   We are asking you or someone from your agency to verify that this upgrade information is communicated to the appropriate people at your agency, your customers, and your technical staff, if your application supports a system-to-system interface to Pay.gov.

To meet Treasury's policy, Pay.gov will begin mandating that any browser or system-to-system (OCI) interface communicating with Pay.gov support 128 bit encryption. The infrastructure will support only 3DES or AES encryption.

Based on usage reports from August, we have noted that 79% of the browsers and agency applications accessing Pay.gov are using known, compliant encryption. 1% of the browsers accessing Pay.gov are not compliant.   We cannot determine whether 20% of our users and agency system-to-system interfaces are compliant because they are using a browser or software that does not supply encryption information to our environment

Our system administrators plan to implement a user friendly message for users accessing Pay.gov via an unsupported version of a browser to notify them that their connection issue may be related to the version of their browser.   The message will appear if Pay.gov's infrastructure can identify enough information submitted by the browser (i.e., encryption level). Those users that we cannot re-direct to a user friendly page will receive a "page cannot be displayed" message. Please note that we are providing a high level message regarding the browser. We are not, and you should not, specify to your customers the supported encryption types.

<u>Minimum browser requirements to support 128 bit encryption:</u>
IE 6.0 (Recommended)
Mozilla Firefox 1.5 or greater
Mozilla 1.7 or greater
Netscape 7.x
Safari 1.2 (for MAC users)

<u>Not Recommended:</u>
IE 5.5 or lower

The upgrade will take place in production the week of November 23.

Our QA environment will be upgraded the week of November 13. Both the production and QA upgrades will take approximately one week to complete.

If your application supports a system-to-system interface (OCI), please begin discussing and scheduling time to test your interface to Pay.gov as soon as the QA environment is upgraded. **It will be critical for applications using a system-to-system (OCI) interface to Pay.gov to test and validate that the application is compliant with this requirement prior to November 23.**

Please contact the Pay.gov Technical Support Help Desk by email at pay.gov.clev@clev.frb.org or by phone at 800-624-1373, to discuss any questions or concerns.